MR. CHAIRMAN: Secretary-General will convey to the Members of the bereaved family our sense of profound sorrow and deep sympathy.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

शारीरिक विकलांग संस्थान में स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम

*101. श्री कृपाल परमार: क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि शारीरिक विकलांग संस्थान (इन्स्टीट्यूट फॉर फिजिकली हैंडीकैप्ड) के अधिकारियों तथा भौतिक चिकित्सा एवं व्यावसायिक चिकित्सा विज्ञान संबंधी पाठ्यक्रमों के छात्र नेताओं के साथ 9 दिसम्बर, 1998 को हुई सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री की बैठक में यह निर्णय लिया गया था कि भारतीय पुनर्वास परिषद् शारीरिक विकलांग संस्थान में भौतिक चिकित्सा एवं व्यावसायिक चिकित्सा विज्ञान में स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम चलाने के लिए कार्य करें;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है और विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रम कब तक प्रारंभ हो जाने की संभावना है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) से (ग) यद्यपि, इस मामले पर बैठक में विचार-विमर्श हुआ था, लेकिन विकलांग जन संस्थान की वर्तमान अवसंरचना को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस संस्थान में स्नातकोत्तर पाठ्यक्रमों को शुरू करना व्यवहार्य नहीं पाया गया है।

Post-graduate course in the Institute for the physically handicapped

†*101. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in her meeting with officers and student leaders of physiotherapy and occupational therapy course of the Institute for the physically Handicapped on 9th December, 1998, it

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

had been decided that Rehabilitation Council of India should work to run Post-graduate course in physiotherapy and occupational therapy in the Institute;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) by when the Post-graduate course is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) Although this matter was discussed in the meeting, introduction of the Post-Graduate Courses at the Institute of the Physically Handicapped has not been found to be feasible keeping in view the existing infrastructure of the Institute.

श्री कृपाल परमार: सभापति जी, इस प्रश्न का संबंध मात्र उस इंस्टीट्यूट में पढ़ने वाले छात्रों के साथ नहीं है बल्कि इस प्रश्न का संबंध भारत में रहने वाले उन लाखों विकलांगों के साथ है जिन विकलांगों को इस इंस्टीट्यूट में पढ़े हुए अनुभवी हाथों की जरूरत है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से, जिनकी ख्याति पूरे देश में जानवरों से स्नेह के लिए है, जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या वे देश के विकलांगों के लिए इस इंस्टीट्यूट में यह कोर्स शुरू करने का प्रयास करेंगी?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, while the Institute for the Physically Handicapped in Delhi is not getting the M.Sc. course for the time being, there are 72 other institutions which are running two post-graduate courses. Not only that, another institute—NIRTAL—which is running much better courses has applied to the Utkal University for a M.Sc., course is Physiotherapy. So, the needs of education in the Physiotherapy area are being served. It is just that the IPH will not be used for the time being until they put their other courses in order.

DR. KARAN SINGH: The problems of the physically handicapped as has been said, are very widespread. Whereas, polio cases

are reducing, accident and trauma cases are increasing; and the number of people who have been hospitalisd as a result of that has also grown. So, will the hon. Minister let us know whether, apart from the training institutions, are there adequate trauma centres around the country which can deal with the increasing road accidents? And, if so, what project the Government has to try and increase these facilities?

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, while this question should actually be addressed to the Ministry of Health, I would like to inform the Member about the kind of infrastructure that has been built up during the last two years. We discovered that 'yes' the infrastructure was not enough either for the physically handicapped or for the traumatized people or for the people who are affected with polio or for the people who do not have access to limbs. Therefore, in the last three years, we have put up 107 district centres. Each centre will serve five districts. These are permanent centres having permanent trained staff, and funds are being provided by us. This is for the first time in the country. Out of the 107 centres, 30 centres ar working very well. The others will come into operation by December. These centres will not only help in providing limbs to the physically handicapped people, but also help in providing treatment for eyes, crechers for the mentally retarded persons and schools for the blind people. All these facilities will be available in one centre. Apart from this, six composite centres — just like a big hospital — are being set up in India so that the disabled persons do not catch any infection or any disease by going to a normal hospital. He can get himself treated in major hospitals that are coming up. Apart from that, there are three more spinal centres to take care of trauma patients, like the Indian Spinal Centre in Delhi. It has been observed that many people are in need of trauma treatment. Therefore, we are in the process of starting three more centres. Out of the three, two have already started working, and one of them, which is in UP, has yet to start.

*102. *[The questioner (Shri Abani Roy) was absent. For answer vide* page 33 *infra*]